Now, How About Graduate School?

PREPARING FOR AN ADMISSIONS TEST

Practice an *entire* test under *timed* conditions using books of previous tests. They are available at most bookstores and libraries. Set aside three and one half hours, unplug the phone, set a timer and see what it's *really* going to be like on test day. As simple as it sounds, this is the most important preparation for any of the tests. They are fatiguing, like marathons, but one or two dry runs can change that. This is also what you would do if you take one of the expensive review courses.

- Practice taking the *entire* test under timed conditions.

POINTS THAT WILL HELP YOU "WIN"

Currently there is no penalty for guessing on tests like the GRE, so *never leave an answer blank*. Others, like the GMAT, have a penalty, but you will still be ahead on average if you can eliminate at least one of the answer choices. Once you have read a question, answer it. Don't skip it in hopes of coming back; you might not have the time.

TIME IS CRITICAL IN THESE TESTS

Wear a standard watch with hands because it's easier to read than a digital one. (If you have 26 minutes left and it's 10:48, what time are you going to stop?) You want to save every bit of energy and every second for the test questions, not for half a dozen computations involving your digital watch. Test administrators don't allow alarms going off during the test and calculators are not permitted.

Bring a sweater or jacket, even if it's the middle of the summer. Those taking the test with my son were dressed for 100 degree weather but the test room was cold; he had a jacket which kept him comfortable.

Walk around at the break. Stretch. Have something to eat. This will give you energy for the rest of the exam.

The first questions within each subsection generally are the easiest, so don't change answers simply because they seem easy. The harder questions are at the end. These are not only difficult, but they have deceptive answer choices. Therefore, if you must guess, pick the *least* likely choice; don't fall for the "baited" answer.

The exams cover 3 areas: reading/comprehension, math and analytical problems. Since all questions are worth the same amount of points, answer the ones that take